NEWFANGLES

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Rocco Mastroserio Dead

Rocco (Rocke) Mastroserio died of a heart attack early in March, probably on the 4th. No details are available at this time. Mastroserio was (please pardon us for editorializing here) one of the finest comic artists in the business today and was continuing to improve. He was also a warm and gentle man who seemed honestly to have no idea how good he was. With writer Raymond Marais, he was responsible for the finest example of graphic storytelling in 1967: "The Rescue of the Morning Maid" in Creepy #14. His loss is the greater because he was constantly improving.

King Dethroned

King Comics, which went into the obscurity of plastic bags about a year ago in a plan which was to revolutionize distribution, are now defunct, according to a hitherto reliable source. From the difficulty we had getting King packs, shared by most of our correspondents, we are not surprised. Unfortunately, the demise of King leaves unpublished something like three Newt Crandall Flash Gordons, as many Wally Wood-Steve Ditko-Wayne Howard Jungle Jims, and a Jeff Jones Flash Gordon. (Does anyone know if an adventure pack containing FG#11 was ever produced? We'd like to try one, if one exists.)

Matt Rosenblatt sent word from Aberdeen Proving Ground that presaged the news of the dethronement of King: "We saw last week the ignominious fate reserved for unsold King Comics. Copies of Beetle Bailey #57 (Feb. '67), stamped 'Complimentary Copy,' are being given away with purchases at the commissary store here at the Proving Ground. And I thought things like that went out in the '40's?"

Speaking of Beetle Bailey, Mort Walker, creator of that strip and of Hi and Lois (Did you know Lois is Beetle's sister?) has a new strip out. Sweet's Ark (under the byline of "Addison," Mort's middle name) started Dec. 11. Bug your local paper into carrying the strip, pointing out that Mort is responsible for two of the world's most successful comic strips. Support our friends.

The above-named Jeff Jones is currently doing paperback book covers for Ace and Lancer, specializing in sword-and-sorcery titles such as Swords of Lankhmar by Fritz Leiber (Ace) and Sentinel of the Sky Territs by Robert Moore Williams (Lancer). As an aid in spotting a Jeff Jones cover: it looks at first glance like Frazetta, but no one in the picture has any feet.

Gil Kane has left DC (to be replaced by Al Plastino on Green Lantern and by Mike Sekowsky on Atom). Watch for Gil's Creepy-shaped 35¢ spy comic, His Name Is... Savage! Savage reportedly looks remarkably like Lee Marvin. Due out soon.

805,700	Batman
649,300	Superman
537,800	World's Finest
466,400	Lois Lane
436,300	Detective
413,800	Adventure
393,800	Justice League
384,450	Tarzan
334,863	Amazing Spider-Man
342,400	Brave & Bold
327,116	Fantastic Four
319,665	Jimmy's Comics & Stories
308,726	Donnie the Mangaw
288,219	Thor
282,192	Archie's Joke Book
278,901	Uncle Scrooge
275,361	Daredevil
270,080	Hawk
269,189	Avengers
269,132	Tales to Astonish
267,900	Flash
266,834	X-Men
264,867	Lost in Space
257,342	Captain America
252,470	Donald Duck
241,681	Pep
241,186	Strange Tales
230,783	Sgt. Woodpecker
210,165	Magnus
208,139	Dr. Solar
201,733	Green Lantern
199,800	Showcase
199,130	Atom
182,300	Challengers of Unknown
178,300	Girls' Love Stories
174,500	Heart Throbs
170,400	Girls' Romances
160,000	Star Spangled War
157,900	Doom Patrol
156,800	Sugar & Spike
146,700	Secret Hearts
146,600	Strange Adventures

...All the figures listed here are total paid circulation for the average month of the 18-month period reported in this spring's issues. Anyone want to supply us with more figures for the listing (we couldn't get 'em all)?

* * *

The gold medal for being the only comic with circulation gain over the previous year of over 50,000 goes to:

Brave & Bold

which had a circulation gain of 62,994.

Comics with a Circulation Loss of Over 50,000

Batman
Superman
Flash
Adventure
Blackhawk
Challengers of the Unknown
Star Spangled War Stories
Lois Lane
Showcase

"So what the heck is this?" [I hear you cry]. Well, this is a bunch of circulation figures gleaned from current comic books (most of which we don't buy). On the next page, some comparisons with last year's figures. The incredible losses of many DC titles goes a long way to explain why so many new titles/artists/writers/editors are being announced at the big gold building at 575 Lexington Ave. Many of these new titles/mix are very good, by the way -- it is hereby suggested that you look over the DC comics rack month as you pay them aside to get at the Marvels.

For a detailed picture of the many, many changes of staff and format at all comic publishing houses, we honestly recommend On the Scrying Board, 6 issues (a year's worth) for $1 from Mark Hanerfeld,
Flushing, NY 11355. There's a lot happening in the comics group nowadays.

While we're passing out free plugs, you may be interested in Nostalgia Book Club, 525 Main St., New Rochelle, NY 10801. It offers a monthly club bulletin describing the next selection (you have to buy 4 books over the next two years) at a discount. Books about old-time radio, old ads, old movies and maybe even old comics.

JACQUELYN HARPER, an avid if not active comic fan majoring in journalism at San Diego State College, recently sold two articles on comics. One, about Marvel, was sold to "This Generation," a column syndicated by the Chicago Tribune/New York Daily News. The second is about Burt Klup, comic dealer at Cherokee Book Shop in Los Angeles and self-proclaimed "King of Comics." This one sold to Orig. No publication date known to us. (For this news, much thanks, Dave Ratrida.)

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1967	+/-
Justice League	340,000	-	-	-	408,219	385,800	-22,419
Turzan	15,916p	332,460	353,237	356,695	338,052	303,450	-448,398
Brave & Bold	310,000	-	-	-	279,406	348,400	68,994
Walt Disney's Comics	160,854p	446,000	456,425	410,208	348,350	310,965	-35,385
Thor (Journey Int Myst)	132,113	287,895	305,079	237,544	200,251	238,219	41,968
Uncle Scrooge	4,351s	299,135	336,380	330,985	297,516	278,901	-18,615
Tales to Astonish	139,159	?	308,965	324,345	355,145	369,132	13,987
Capt America (Fin of Sump)	126,140	158,110	207,963	222,000	250,239	257,342	65,103
Strange Tales	136,637	?	?	230,365	241,969	241,561	-19,808
Atom		-	285,304	253,234	238,850	184,100	-48,750
Sugar & Spike	160,820	-	-	-	196,815	156,200	-40,315

? Indicates that we could find no circulation statement, with or without actual figures, in that year--despite checking all copies around the usual publication date of such statements

- Indicates a statement published--which did not include any circulation figures

p Indicates that the figure given was only subscriptions to the magazine in that year

This is a listing of the comics which have given their circulation for more than the past two years. Does anyone know, incidentally, why other comics did not give the data? Or how they avoided it, whatever their reasons?

CIRCULATION FIGURES are fascinating. Andy Sarba says, "At least 10 DC Comics have circulations under 175,000 average.... Radio's titles have ... shown healthy circulation gains... Fox & Crow has average sales of 115,000, which raises the question: How low can sales sink before DC kills a title?" Part of that question is answered: Fox & Crow is now Sunday & Its Monster. What happens to that Arnold Stake creation now that Archie has moved to Marvel?

ACADEMY BUSINESS is apparently being wrapped up. Mark Hannerfeld (address given on page 2) is currently circulating Alley Ballots for 1967. There will be no nominations this year by anyone--all are to vote without that. (The categories are those of last year's ballot, making voting a real chore, unfortunately; Mark would appreciate suggestions for improvements.)

There will be a small, informal "convention" in Flushing, N.Y. on Saturday, April 20. Cost is 50¢. Check OTOH Vol. 2 #1 for details and instructions on how to get there...

(By the way, if you're mailing out your fanzine before the end of April and are willing to carry the ballot free of charge, write Hannerfeld telling him the number of ballots you can handle.)

Your subscription expires with issue #_____. Our circulation this issue is 39, not nearly enough for us to break even. If it doesn't pick up soon, we refund all money and fold. Apparently we are not filling a need. This is a first warning.

FAN GAINS GOOD NEWS.: Robert Crunk, onetime science fiction fan (publisher of Fog), whose work appeared in the late lamented Help!, is now doing a comic strip called Fritz the Cat for Cavalier. It has been described as the greatest thing in comic art appearing these days. We are unwilling to go that far, but it is great. No kids.

ALTER EGO will be out Real Soon Now, says Roy Thomas, with a long Gil Kane interview.

OLD BUSINESS: Vince Davis' date at Rich Durell's party was not named Elaine. Sorry. // However, Luise Petti and Steve Perrin were married Jan. 6, just as we said they would be. It's nice to be right. // What the handprinted hell is Ken Keller's address?

MAILING LIST DEPARTMENT (THAT SAID IT COULDN'T BE DONE DIVISION): The long-long-promised checklist of Dell special edition titles is now available (at $1) from Dell Thompson (address on page 1). He apologizes for the delays and tried to compensate by adding a few bonus checklists -- Comics on Parade, Walter Feature Books, etc. Add 10¢ if you want any subsequently-published corrections or additions. If you already ordered a copy, a year or so ago, it is now on its way to you.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Copies of Bill Elsner's FX (army preventive maintenance manual) may be obtainable through your local National Guard or ROTC.

A free booklet on embezzle, Charlie Brown, Detective, is free on request from National Society for Prevention of Blindness, 79 Madison ave., NYC, NY 10016. Some Peanuts strips are reprinted.

ADDRESS CHANGES: John & Bjo Trimble, Los Angeles, Calif. 90064
Jerry & Joan Bails will be in Wales from July 20-July 29 for a workshop devoted to fostering innovation in American higher education. Their mail order business will be suspended for that period.

DETROIT TRIVIA FAN FAIR is to be held June 15, 16 at Fort Shelby Hotel. Write Ed Cyrill, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48103.

PHONE FANDOM: Thompsons now have an extension phone and can both talk at once to any callers (or both listen, if you prefer; you're paying for the call).

POSTAL RULES CHANGE: Third class mail. If marked "Return Postage Guaranteed," will be returned at a cost of 10¢ per piece. But, you will not receive an address correction (illegibly written on the envelope) as has been the case in the past. For that, you must mark your fanzine "Address Correction Requested" and be prepared to pay another 15¢ for that service. For that price, you should at least demand legibility. With this in mind, please make sure any fan editor you patronize is kept informed of your correct correct address...he can't afford to check it out.

As a public service, I'm going to tell you how to beat that 15¢ extortion described above. Just mark yourfanzine "Return Postage Guaranteed" and pay for having it returned. Then send a postcard to the person at the same address and say "A copy of Krypton Gazette was sent back from the address listed on this card. If you wish to receive that issue, please send me your current address and 30¢ to cover cost of the aborted mailing." The postcard will be forwarded and you should get the same result for a nickel that the postal authorities would clip you 15¢ for. In gratitude, use the other 10¢ to buy the next NEOFANDER, out in May.